

IN THE CLAIMS

1. **(currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system comprising a transition metal catalyst and a ligand microencapsulated within a permeable polymer microcapsule shell, wherein the permeable polymer microcapsule shell is formed by interfacial polymerization, the transition metal catalyst and the ligand encapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell are discrete, and the transition metal catalyst comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, osmium, ruthenium, rhodium, iridium, rhenium, scandium, cerium, samarium, yttrium, ytterbium, lutetium, cobalt, titanium, chromium, copper, iron, nickel, manganese, tin, mercury, silver, gold, zinc, vanadium, tungsten and molybdenum.
2. **(cancelled)**
3. **(cancelled)**
4. **(previously presented)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 1 wherein the permeable polymer microcapsule shell is the product of self-condensation and/or cross-linking of etherified urea-formaldehyde resins or prepolymers in which from about 50 to about 98% of the methylol groups have been etherified with a C₄-C₁₀ alcohol.
5. **(previously presented)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 1 wherein the permeable polymer microcapsule shell is a polyurea microcapsule prepared from at least one polyisocyanate and/or tolylene diisocyanate.
6. **(previously presented)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 5 wherein the polyisocyanates and/or tolylene diisocyanates are selected from the group consisting of 1-chloro-2,4-phenylene diisocyanate, m-phenylene diisocyanate (and its hydrogenated derivative), p-phenylene diisocyanate (and its hydrogenated derivative), 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate), 2,4-tolylene diisocyanate, tolylene diisocyanate (60% 2,4-isomer, 40% 2,6-isomer), 2,6-tolylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylenebis (2-methylphenyl isocyanate), 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 2,2',5,5'-tetramethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 80% 2,4- and 20% 2,6-isomer of tolylene diisocyanate, polymethylene

polyphenylisocyanate (PMPPi), 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, tetramethylxylene diisocyanate and 1,5-naphthylene diisocyanate.

7. **(cancelled)**
8. **(cancelled)**
9. **(currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim [[8]] 1 wherein the transition metal catalyst comprises ~~comprising~~ palladium.
10. **(currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 9 wherein the ligand is an organic moiety comprising one or more ~~heteroatoms~~ heteroatoms selected from N, O, P and S.
11. **(original)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 10 wherein the ligand is an organic ligand of formula (1):

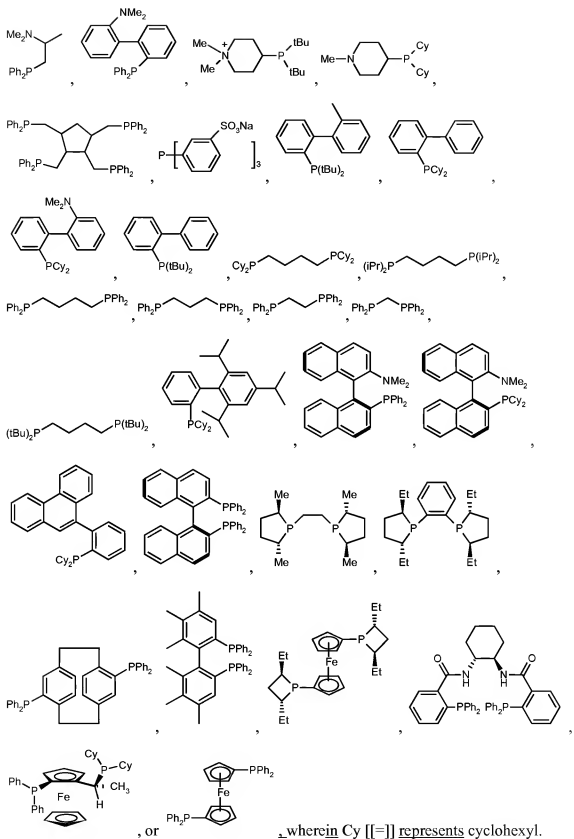


(1)

wherein:

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are each independently an optionally substituted hydrocarbonyl group, an optionally substituted hydrocarboxy group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group or one or more of R^1 & R^2 , R^1 & R^3 , R^2 & R^3 optionally being linked in such a way as to form an optionally substituted ring(s).

12. **(currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 11 wherein the ligand is PMc_2CF_3 , $P(OEt)_3$, $P(Et)_3$, $P(Bu)_3$, $P(cyclohexyl)_3$, $PPhEt_2$, PPh_2Me , PPh_3 , $P(CH_2Ph)_3$, $P(CH_2Ph)Ph_2$, $P(p\text{-tolyl})_3$, $P(o\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4OMe)_3$, $P(OPh)_3$, $P(O\text{-}p\text{-tolyl})_3$, $P(p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4OMe)_3$, $P(o\text{-tolyl})_3$, $P(m\text{-tolyl})_3$, PMc_3 , $PPhMc_2$, PPh_2Et , $P(i\text{-Pr})_3$, $P(t\text{-Bu})_3$, $PPhCH_2Ph$, PPh_2OEt , $PPh(OEt)_2$, $P(O\text{-}o\text{-tolyl})_3$, $P(OMe)_3$, $P(n\text{-Pr})_3$, $PPh(i\text{-Pr})_2$, $PPh_2(i\text{-Pr})$, $PPhBu_2$, PPh_2Bu , $P(i\text{-Bu})_3$, $PPh(cyclohexyl)_2$, $PPh_2(cyclohexyl)$, $P(CH_2Ph)_2Et$, $P(CH_2Ph)Et_2$, $P(C_6F_5)Ph_2$, $P(p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4F)_3$, $P(p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4Cl)_3$, $P(C_6F_5)_2Ph$, $P(o\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4F)_3$, $P(o\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4Cl)_3$, $P(2\text{-furanyl})_3$, $P(2\text{-thienyl})_3$, $P(n\text{-octyl})_3$, $P(p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4NO_2)_3$,



13. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system which comprises forming a permeable polymer microcapsule shell by interfacial ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization in the presence of a transition metal catalyst and a ligand, wherein the transition metal catalyst and the ligand are microencapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell, the transition metal catalyst and the ligand encapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell are discrete, and the transition metal catalyst comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, osmium, ruthenium, rhodium, iridium, rhenium, scandium, cerium, samarium, yttrium, ytterbium, lutetium, cobalt, titanium, chromium, copper, iron, nickel, manganese, tin, mercury, silver, gold, zinc, vanadium, tungsten and molybdenum.
14. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 13 which wherein the step of forming a permeable polymer microcapsule shell by interfacial polymerization comprises
 - (a) dissolving or dispersing the catalyst and ligand in a first phase,
 - (b) dispersing the first phase in a second, continuous phase to form an emulsion,
 - (c) reacting one or more microcapsule wall-forming materials at the interface between the dispersed first phase and the continuous second phase to form a permeable microcapsule polymer shell encapsulating the dispersed first phase core₂ and optionally
 - (d) recovering the microcapsules from the continuous phase.
15. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system comprising forming a permeable polymer microcapsule shell by interfacial ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization in the presence of a transition metal catalyst and treating the permeable polymer microcapsule shell with a ligand;
wherein the transition metal catalyst and the ligand are microencapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell, the transition metal catalyst and the ligand

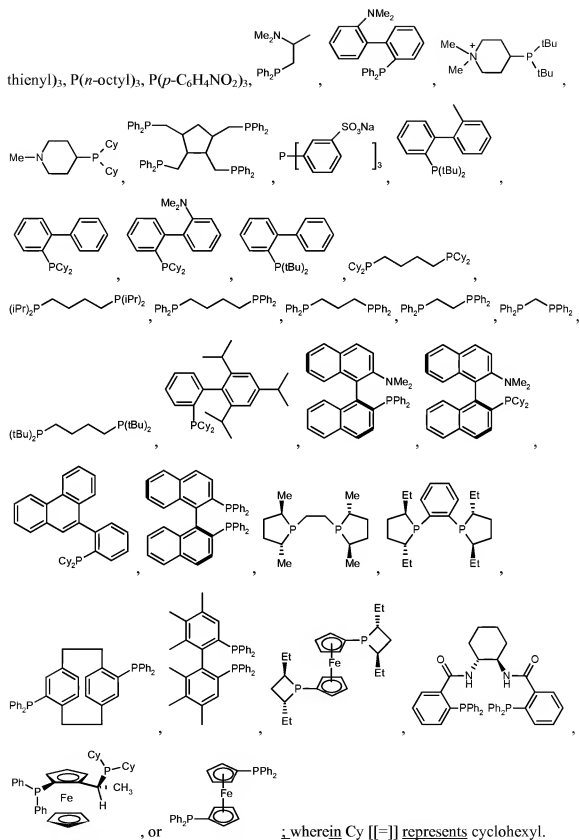
encapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell are discrete, and the transition metal catalyst comprises a transition metal selected the group consisting of platinum, palladium, osmium, ruthenium, rhodium, iridium, rhenium, scandium, cerium, samarium, yttrium, ytterbium, lutetium, cobalt, titanium, chromium, copper, iron, nickel, manganese, tin, mercury, silver, gold, zinc, vanadium, tungsten and molybdenum.

16. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to claim 15 ~~which~~ wherein the step of forming a permeable polymer microcapsule shell by interfacial polymerization comprises
- (a) dissolving or dispersing the catalyst in a first phase,
 - (b) dispersing the first phase in a second, continuous phase to form an emulsion, and
 - (c) reacting one or more microcapsule wall-forming materials at the interface between the dispersed first phase and the continuous second phase to form a permeable polymer microcapsule polymer shell encapsulating the dispersed first phase core, ~~and~~
 - ~~(d) treating the microcapsules with a ligand~~
17. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system comprising forming a permeable polymer microcapsule shell by interfacial ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization in the presence of a ligand and treating the microcapsule shell with a transition metal catalyst solution; wherein the transition metal catalyst and the ligand are microencapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell, the transition metal catalyst and the ligand encapsulated within the permeable polymer microcapsule shell are discrete, and the transition metal catalyst comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, osmium, ruthenium, rhodium, iridium, rhenium, scandium, cerium, samarium, yttrium, ytterbium, lutetium, cobalt, titanium, chromium, copper, iron, nickel, manganese, tin, mercury, silver, gold, zinc, vanadium, tungsten and molybdenum.
18. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 17 ~~which~~ wherein the step

of forming a permeable polymer microcapsule shell by interfacial polymerization
comprises

- (a) dissolving or dispersing the ligand in a first phase,
 - (b) dispersing the first phase in a second, continuous phase to form an emulsion, and
 - (c) reacting one or more microcapsule wall-forming materials at the interface between the dispersed first phase and the continuous second phase to form a permeable microcapsule polymer shell encapsulating the dispersed first phase core, ~~and~~
 - (d) ~~treating the microcapsules with a solution of a catalyst.~~
19. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 13, 15 or 17 wherein the interfacial ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization comprises self-condensation and/or cross-linking of etherified urea-formaldehyde resins or prepolymers in which from about 50 to about 98% of the methylol groups have been etherified with a C₄-C₁₀ alcohol.
20. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 13, 15 or 17 wherein the interfacial ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization comprises condensation of at least one polyisocyanate and/or tolylene diisocyanate.
21. **(withdrawn)** A process according to Claim 20 wherein the polyisocyanates and/or tolylene diisocyanates are selected from the group consisting of 1-chloro-2,4-phenylene diisocyanate, m-phenylene diisocyanate (and its hydrogenated derivative), p-phenylene diisocyanate (and its hydrogenated derivative), 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate), 2,4-tolylene diisocyanate, tolylene diisocyanate (60% 2,4-isomer, 40% 2,6-isomer), 2,6-tolylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylenebis (2-methylphenyl isocyanate), 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 2,2',5,5'-tetramethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 80% 2,4- and 20% 2,6-isomer of tolylene diisocyanate, polymethylene polyphenylisocyanate (PMPPi), 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, tetramethylxylene diisocyanate and 1,5-naphthylene diisocyanate.
22. **(withdrawn)** A process according to Claim 20 or Claim 21 wherein a crosslinking reagent is present.

23. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 13, 15 or 17 wherein the interfacial ~~polymerisation~~ **polymerization** comprises self-condensation and/or cross-linking of etherified urea-formaldehyde resins or prepolymers in which from about 50 to about 98% of the methylol groups have been etherified with a C₄-C₁₀ alcohol and wherein unreacted amine groups are converted to urea, amide or urethane groups by post reaction with a monoisocyanate, acid chloride or chloroformate.
24. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 14, 16 or 18 wherein the wall-forming materials comprise etherified urea-formaldehyde resins or prepolymers in which from about 50 to about 98% of the methylol groups have been etherified with a C₄-C₁₀ alcohol.
25. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 14, 16 or 18 wherein the wall-forming materials comprise at least one polyisocyanate and/or tolylene diisocyanate.
26. **(withdrawn)** A process according to Claim 25 wherein the polyisocyanates and/or tolylene diisocyanates are selected from the group consisting of 1-chloro-2,4-phenylene diisocyanate, m-phenylene diisocyanate (and its hydrogenated derivative), p-phenylene diisocyanate (and its hydrogenated derivative), 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate), 2,4-tolylene diisocyanate, tolylene diisocyanate (60% 2,4-isomer, 40% 2,6-isomer), 2,6-tolylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylenebis (2-methylphenyl isocyanate), 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 2,2',5,5'-tetramethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 80% 2,4- and 20% 2,6-isomer of tolylene diisocyanate, polymethylene polyphenylisocyanate (PMPPi), 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, tetramethylxylene diisocyanate and 1,5-naphthylene diisocyanate.
27. **(withdrawn)** A process according to Claim 26 wherein the wall-forming materials comprise a crosslinking reagent.
28. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A process according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 13, 15 or 17 wherein the catalyst is an inorganic catalyst, preferably a transition metal catalyst.



34. **(withdrawn -- currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to ~~any one of claim[s]]~~ 13, 15 or 17.
35. **(currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 9 wherein the transition metal catalyst comprises palladium in an organic solvent soluble form.
36. **(previously presented)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 35 wherein the transition metal catalyst is palladium acetate.
37. **(currently amended)** A microencapsulated catalyst-ligand system according to Claim 1 wherein the permeable polymer microcapsule shell is prepared from polymethylene polyphenyl di-isocyanate; the transition metal catalyst is palladium (II) acetate; and the ligand is triphenylphosphine.